

A House for Hermit Crab

study by Ami Brainerd

Social Studies

Different Types of Homes/Houses

A house is a place where someone (or something lives).

Discuss different types of animal houses with your young student.

A Hermit Crab lives in a shell. Where does a bear live? a bird? a bee? a fox? (discuss other animals, too).

A fun book to read together would be *Usborne's Animal Homes* (a lift the flap learner).

A fun project to do together-- My House

Give your student a large sheet of white paper. Brainstorm together about what the inside of your house looks like. How many rooms (upstairs and down). Draw the frame of the house (it doesn't have to be exact-- you may not be able to get every room in). Using magazines and catalogs, find pictures of beds, toilets, stoves, tables, chairs, carpet, curtains (you could also use scrap fabrics, sample carpets, and sample wallpaper books for this!) and cut them out. Glue the pieces down to resemble your house. Discuss your student's favorite room and what he likes about his house. After you finish the project, take some time out to pray and thank God for the shelter He has provided for you.

Your older student may enjoy learning more about the different kinds of houses that people around the world live in. Some people live in huts, others igloos, others tents! Read *A House is a House for Me* by Mary Ann Hoberman together and discuss all the different kinds of houses.

Lapbooking Component: Different Houses

More books you may want to check out from the library

Houses and Homes by Ann Morris

Homes and Houses Then and Now (Usborne Flip Flaps)

This is My House by Arthur Dorros

Houses by Marcia Fries

This is My House by Richard Scarry

Homes Around the World by Bobbie Kalman

Your very young student may enjoy continuing the discussion on houses with a reading of *The Three Little Pigs* (houses of straw, sticks, bricks)

Moving

Hermit Crab had to find a new house. Has your student ever experienced moving into a new house? What were some of Hermit's feelings (he felt safe/snug in his old shell; he was frightened when he had to move out). Discuss feelings one may have when having to move.

Learning Your Address

If you are discussing houses and homes (or moving) this week, it may be a good time for your student to learn his address (if he hasn't already done this). Lapbooking Component--My Address

Making Friends

How does the hermit crab make friends with all the sea creatures he meets? He compliments them first and then asks for their help. Proverbs tells us that if we want friends, we have to be friendly! You may want to discuss a time when your student made a new friend. You may also want to memorize Proverbs 18:24a this week. "A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly..."

Bible: Luke 6: 47-49

You may want to read and discuss this passage of Scripture with your student this week:

Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Make a list of commands (sayings) that God has given us. Are we simply to know His commands? No, we are to DO them. If we do His commands, we are like the wise man. If we choose to ignore God's commands, we are like the foolish man who did not have a foundation under his house. When the storm came, his house was wiped away.

Lapbooking Component: Wise Man/Foolish Man Flap Book

Language Arts

Vocabulary

plain- having no pattern or decoration

decorate- to make more attractive by adding something that is beautiful

gingerly- very cautious or careful

dim- not bright or clear, hard to see

murky- very dark, filled with fog

gloomy- total darkness

murmured- complained

tidy- well ordered and cared for, clean

prickly- covered with small sharp points or a sharp pointed part that sticks out

fierce- wild or threatening in appearance

gratefully- expressing thanks

Word Choice

If your student is ready, direct his attention to the different words Eric Carle used for each of the sea animals as they answer the crab. Instead of using "said" each time, he uses many different phrases for variety—

the sea anemone *whispered*

the sea star *signaled*

the coral *creaked*

the snail *offered*

the sea urchin *answered*

the lantern fish *replied*

(later, when the animals are speaking again, Carle only uses the word *said* once; he also uses *murmured, complained, and cried*)

Description

Look at the illustration of the seaweed forest. The sea creatures use many different words to describe it—

dark, dim, gloomy, murky, like nighttime. What other words can you and your student think of to describe the picture?

Lapbooking Component: Seaweed Forest (list your adjectives inside)

Applied Math

Growing

“Little by little, over the year, Hermit Crab had grown”

Print a copy of this Growth Chart (it uses the twelve months, so you can tie it in with the other math lesson). Record your student’s weight and height each month for one year. If you have record of weight and height from other ages (even when your student was born), make up some math problems using the data. “When you were born you weighed about 9 pounds, now you weigh 42 pounds. How much weight have you gained since birth?”

Months of the Year

All twelve months are mentioned throughout this story. Does your student know the months of the year? Practice saying and writing them in order this week.

Using Hermit Crab's Year, review what happened to Hermit Crab in the story.

January - Hermit Crab outgrew his shell

February- Found a new (plain) shell

March- Met the sea anemone

April- Met the starfish

May- Discovered some coral

June- Came to a group of snails

July- Came upon sea urchins

August- Wandered into a forest of seaweed

September- Found the lantern fish

October- Approached the smooth pebbles

November- Outgrew his shell

December- Gave his shell away to a smaller hermit crab

January (of the next year)- Found a new *larger* shell

You can extend this lesson into handwriting (and a memory game). I made month cards and let my son write in the words (HWOT font). Then, he cut them out and put them in a pocket in his lapbook. We use the cards for review to see if he can put the months of the year in order. Print the cards on cardstock if you have it handy.

Science

Different Types of Crabs

Read the note by Eric Carle on the dedication page for some basic information on Hermit Crabs. Hermit Crabs have the word *crab* in their name, but they are not considered true crabs.

True Crabs

True crabs have an exoskeleton—an outer shell—that protects and provides support. They also have five pairs of legs (ten total); one pair—the claws—are used for grasping. They use these legs to walk sideways. (For a fun P.E. lesson this week, teach your child the crab walk). Some crabs live in the ocean, and some crabs live on land. There are about 4,500 different kinds (or species) of true crabs! Additionally, there are about 500 different kinds of Hermit Crabs.

Hermit Crabs

Hermit Crabs also have ten legs. Even though they are considered crustaceans (as are true crabs), they are different than a regular old crab. Hermit Crabs do not have exoskeletons to protect their soft abdomens, they have to go searching for “homes” (empty seashells) to serve this purpose.

Your older student may wish to do more research in order to compare/contrast true crabs with hermit crabs (a Venn diagram may be a good way to record the research).

Ocean Life

There is a note at the end of the book the main sea creatures mentioned. Find some library books and read more information about the diverse creatures living in the sea.

Lapbooking Component Sea Creatures Tab Book

Sea Weed

Seaweed is not really a weed, but it is algae. It is found in the water, but it is not a true plant. Many kinds of seaweed are edible and commonly found on the table in Asian countries. Seaweed is rich in vitamins and iodine. Three main groups of seaweed are: green, brown, and red.

Like other plants, seaweed use sunlight to produce food. However, they are not considered true plants because they do not have roots, stalks, leaves, flowers, or fruit. Instead of roots, seaweed have bases or finger-like disks that enable them to stick to the roughness of rocks. These finger-like discs are not like roots (which enable a plant to pick up substances). This is not a problem for seaweed, though, because seaweed gets all the minerals it needs directly from the sea water.

Your older student may enjoy learning that seaweed is actually found in all types of our food. Look at labels of the food you buy to see if any of the "seaweed" ingredients are listed:

- Carrageenan - compounds extracted from red algae used in stabilizing and gelling foods, cosmetics, and medicine
- Alginates - extracted from brown algae used to make water-based products thicker, creamier, and more stable over extreme temperatures and time (making the product last longer)
- Beta Carotene - a natural pigment from green algae used as a yellow-orange food coloring in food products

Shells

This book is a great opportunity to discuss shells and their inhabitants. We used a book *What Lives in a Shell* to discuss these things. We also had a fun article in *Your Big Backyard* (July 2007) that helped us learn the different kinds of shells.

Lapbooking Component: Shells Layered Book

Art

Collage Style

Discuss the technique of collage with your student using the illustrations in the story. Try to make some collage type paintings like Eric Carle. Give your student a large piece of white paper. Use bright color tempera paint and cover the paper in the color of choice leaving texture (making the brush strokes noticeable) in the paint. Let your student do this with a few different colors using one color per piece of paper. Set aside paintings to dry. After the painting is dry, cut pieces from the paper to create a sea creature. Glue down the cut pieces on white paper.

You could also replicate your student's favorite illustration from the story. (Note: when we study Eric Carle books at our house, we usually replicate the cover page.)

Just for Fun

Decorate a Crab Shell

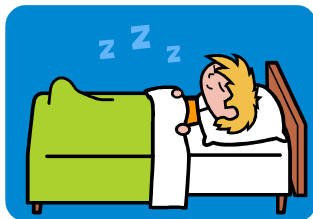
Have your student draw a shell for Hermit Crab (or use the pattern provided) and then decorate with-- jewels, sequins, feathers, mosaic paper tiles, stickers, stamps, dried pasta, whatever else you can think of! (You could put this on the cover of your lapbook.)

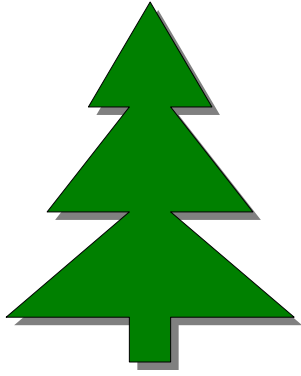
Read another under-the-water adventure by Eric Carle—*Mister Seahorse*

Be adventurous and go to the pet store to look at the Hermit Crabs (be warned! You just might come home with one!)

My Growth Chart

| | Height | Weight |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Month | | |
| January | | |
| February | | |
| March | | |
| April | | |
| May | | |
| June | | |
| July | | |
| August | | |
| September | | |
| October | | |
| November | | |
| December | | |





Plain

having no pattern or decoration



Decorate

to make more attractive by adding something that is beautiful



Gingerly

very cautious or careful



Dim

not bright or clear, hard to see



Murky
very dark, filled with fog



Gloomy
total darkness



Murmured
complained



Tidy
well ordered and cared
for, clean



Prickly

covered with small sharp points or a sharp pointed part that sticks out



Fierce

wild or threatening in appearance



Gratefully

expressing thanks

the wise man built
his house on a...

the foolish man built
his house on the...



SAND



ROCK

SHELLS



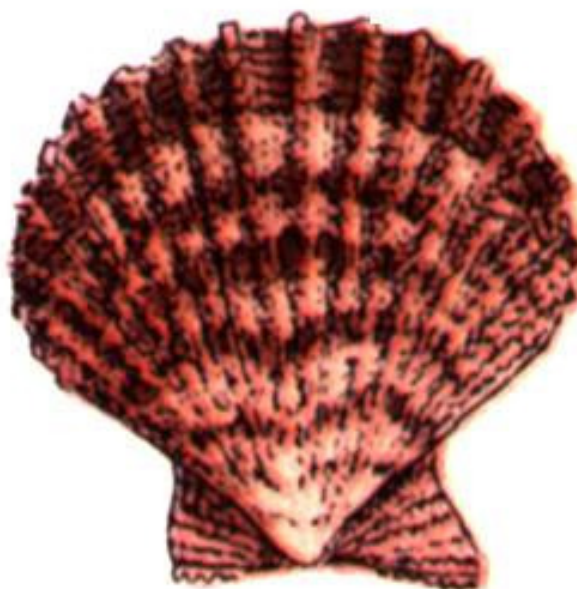
CONCH



SNAIL



SCALLOP



MUSSEL

SHELLS



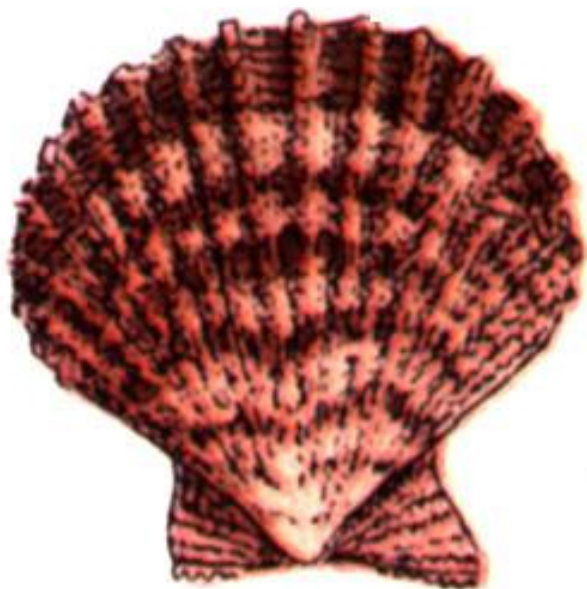
CONCH



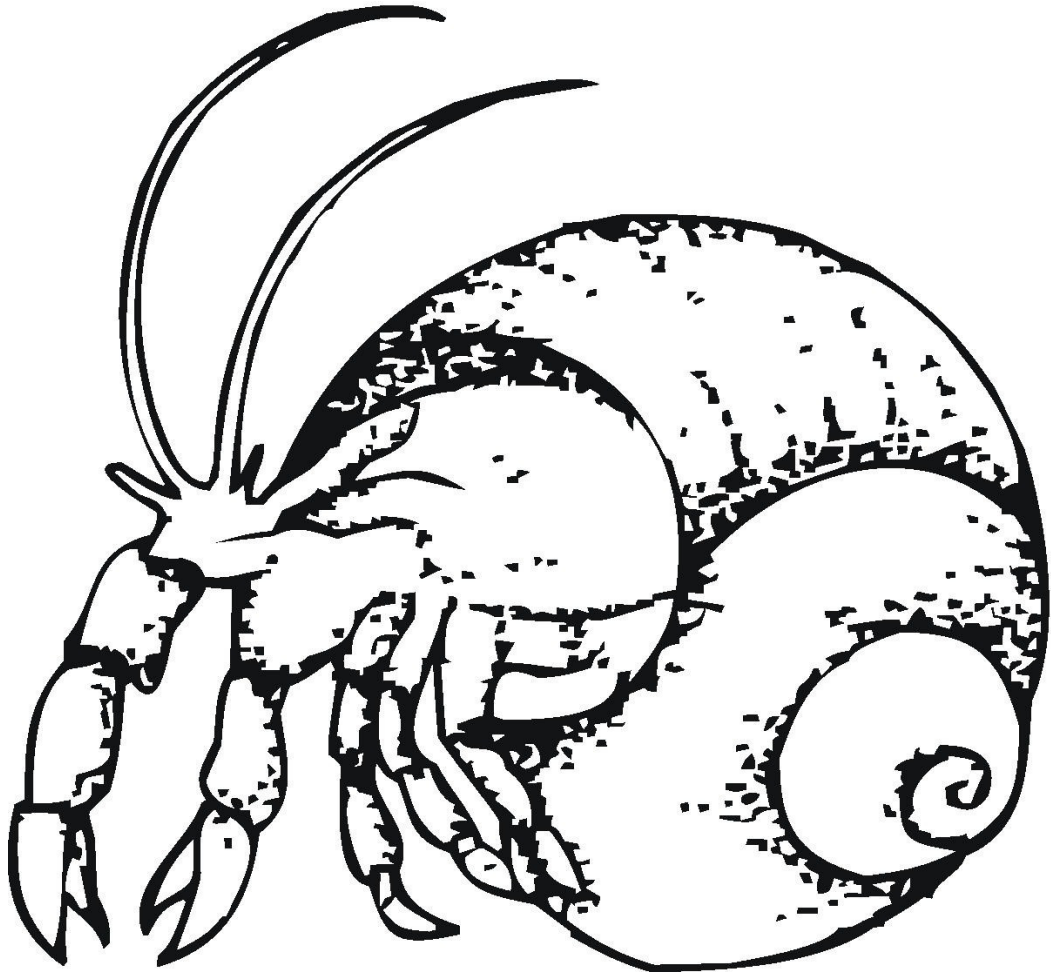
SNAIL



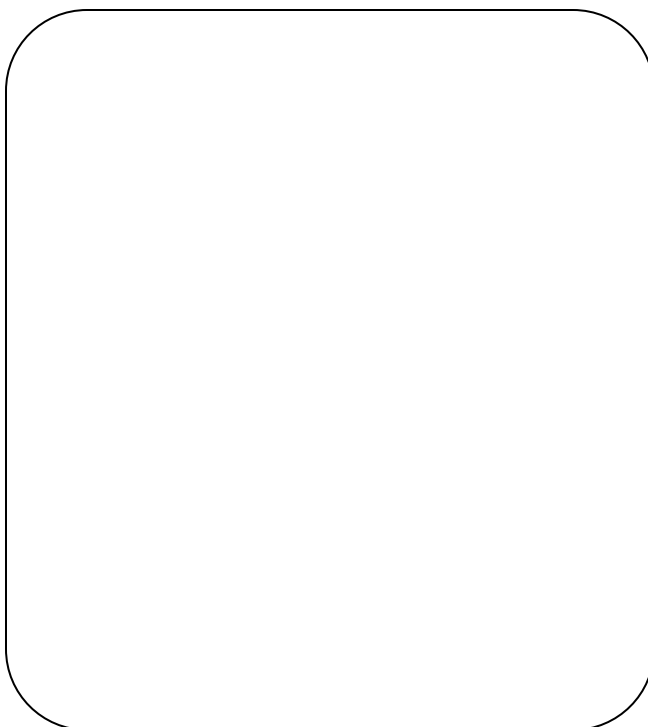
SCALLOP



MUSSEL



Color the crab. Decorate his shell with jewels, sequins, feathers, mosaic paper tiles, stickers, stamps, dried pasta, whatever else you can think of! Be creative! Cut the hermit crab out and paste him in your lapbook.





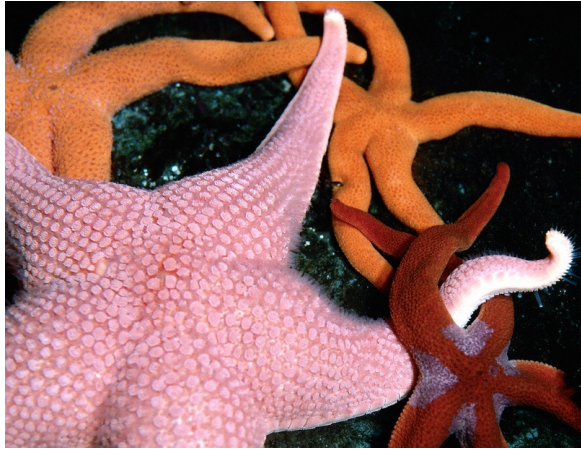
SEA CREATURES

Hermit Crab

REMOVE THIS AREA (Cut away so you have just a tab left)

Snail

REMOVE THIS AREA



| | | |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| Starfish | | REMOVE THIS AREA |
| Sea Anemone | | REMOVE |

Coral

Assembly Directions:

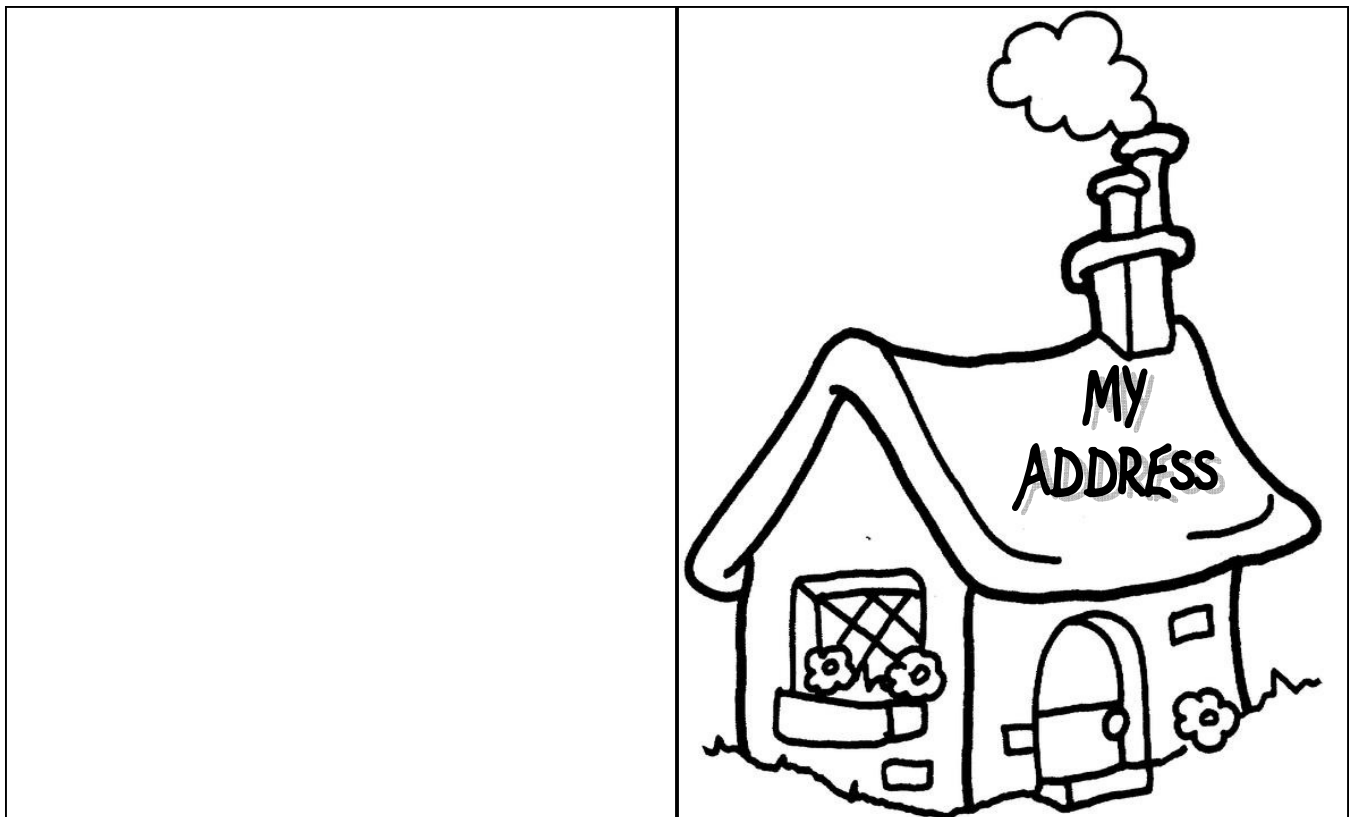
Cut the six strips along the solid outer lines. If there is a rectangle piece in the right corner of the strip, cut it off as indicated (remove this area). Stack your strips in order —

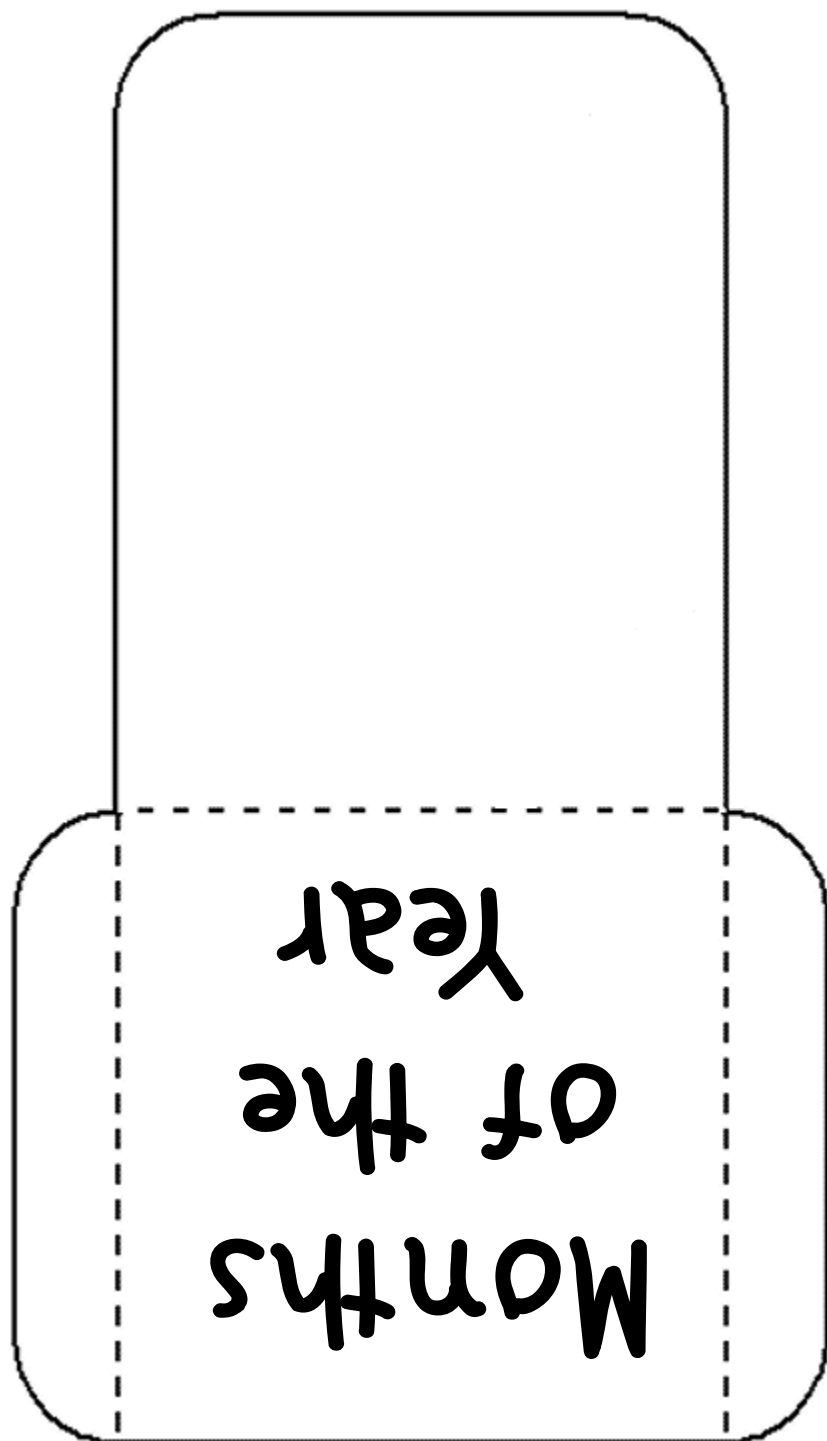
1. Sea Creatures
2. Hermit Crab
3. Sea Urchin
4. Starfish
5. Sea Anemone
6. Coral

Staple at the left side of the front page (Sea Creatures) where the marks are indicated.









Months
of the
Year

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

APARTMENT

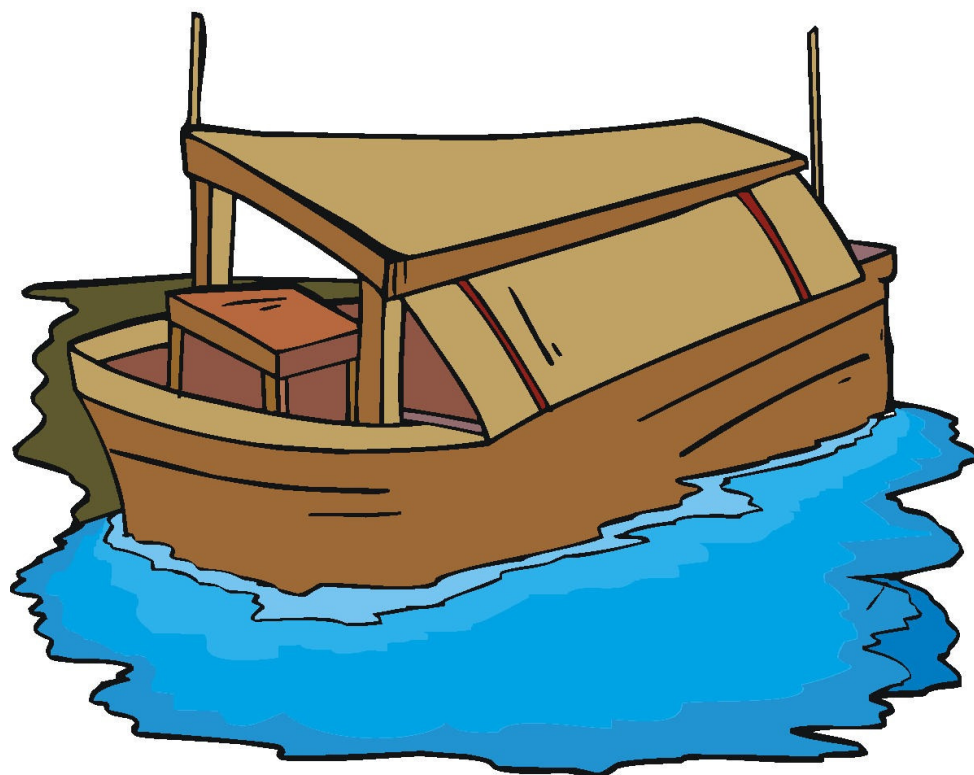
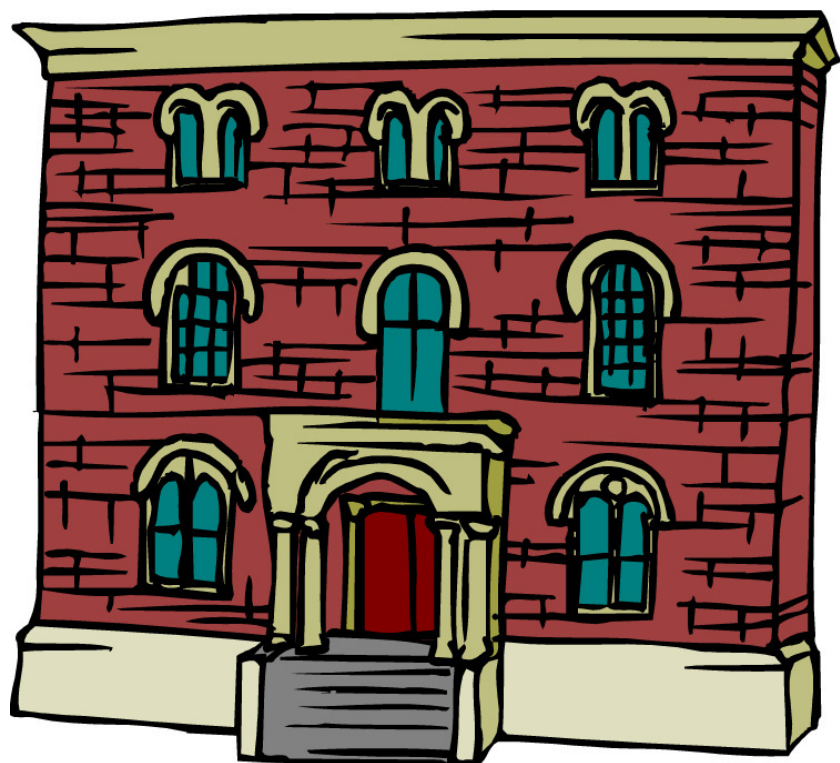
HOUSE BOAT

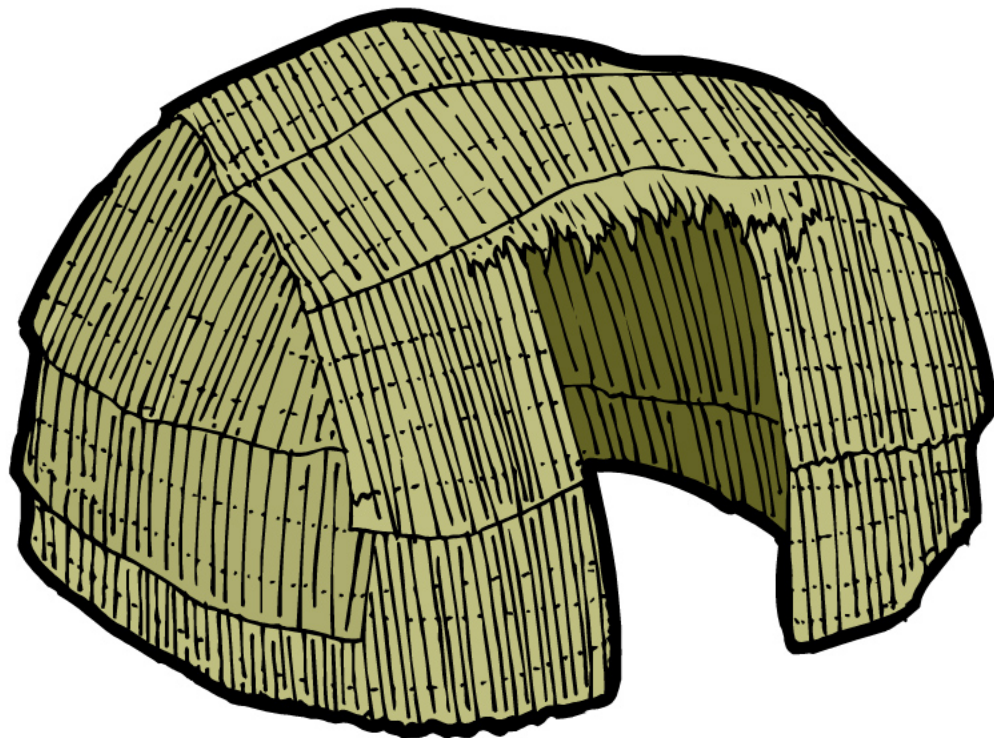
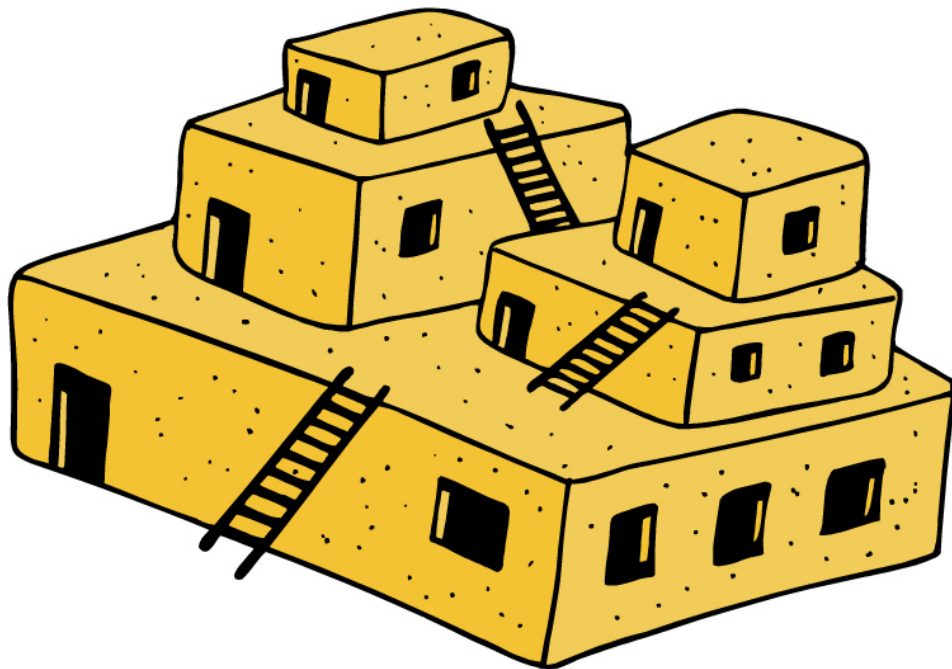
PUEBLO

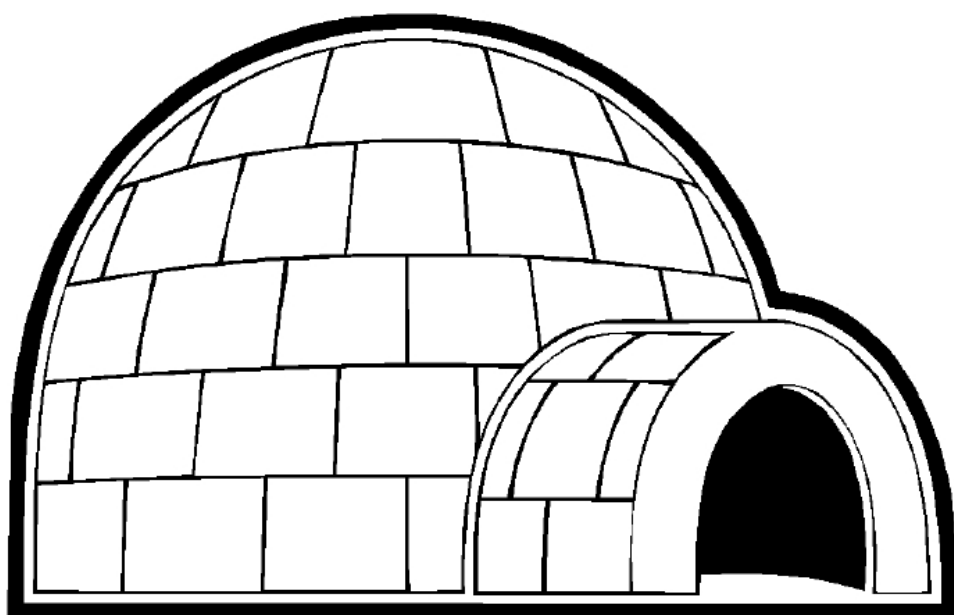
TENT

IGLOO

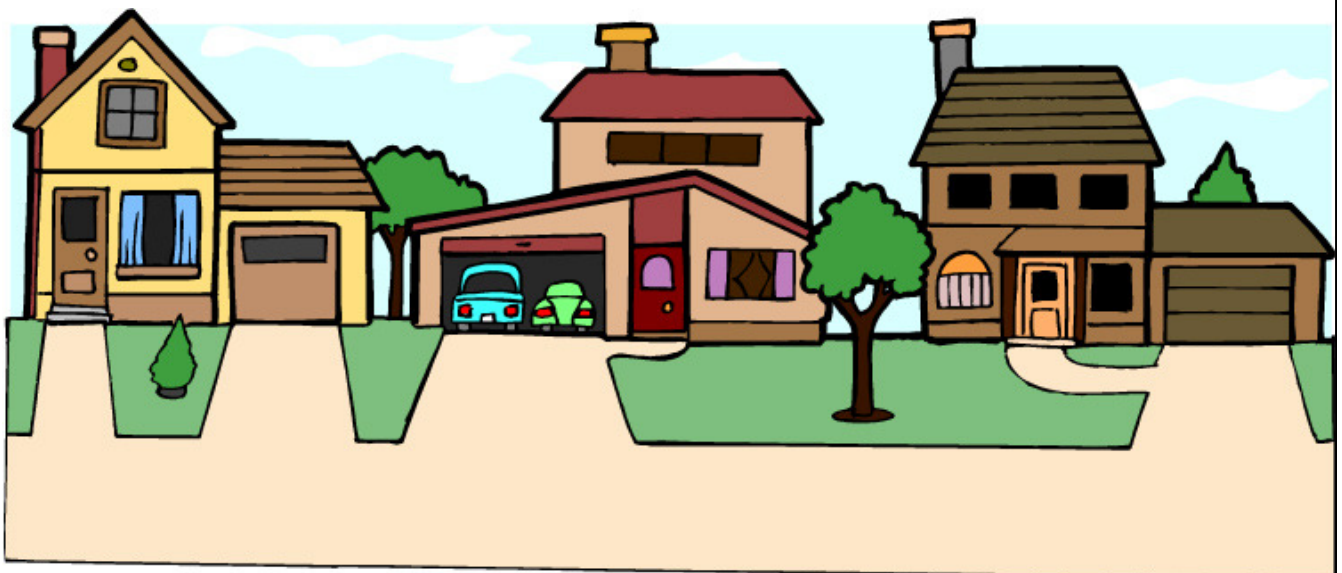
GRASS HUT







Different Kinds of Houses



Hermit Crab's Year

| | | |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| January | February | March |
| April | May | June |
| July | August | September |
| October | November | December |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>He outgrew his shell.</p>  | <p>He found a new shell.</p>  | <p>He met the sea anemone.</p>  |
| <p>He met the starfish.</p>  | <p>He discovered the coral.</p>  | <p>He came to the snails.</p>  |
| <p>He met the sea urchins.</p>  | <p>He wandered into the seaweed forest.</p>  | <p>He found the lantern fish.</p>  |
| <p>He approached the smooth pebbles.</p>  | <p>He outgrew his shell.</p>  | <p>He gave his shell away.</p>  |

www.homeschoolshare.com

Cut pieces apart and glue on to the appropriate spot on "Hermit Crab's Year" (previous page).



HERMIT CRAB

Predators

What is a crustacean?

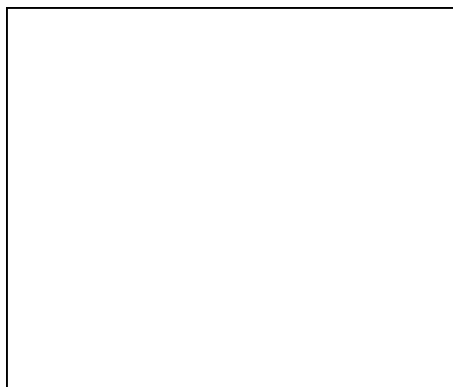
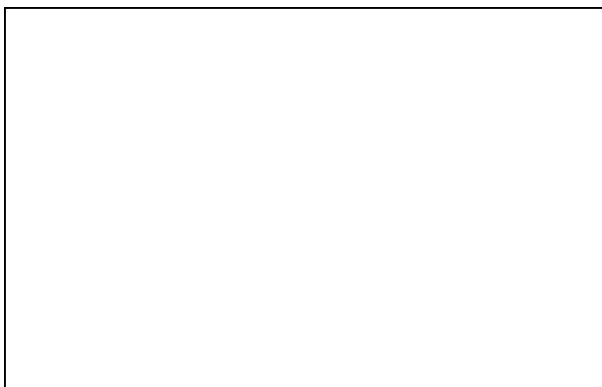
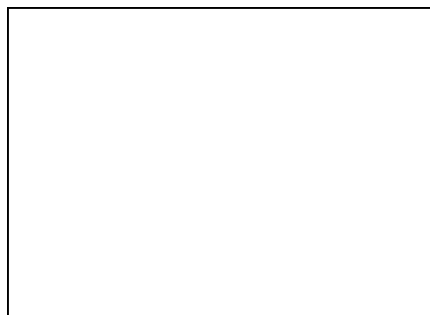
Diet

Anatomy

| | |
|---------|--|
| Kingdom | |
| Phylum | |
| Class | |
| Order | |
| Genus | |
| Species | |



HERMIT CRAB



| | |
|---------|--|
| Kingdom | |
| Phylum | |
| Class | |
| Order | |
| Genus | |
| Species | |